

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Disclosed is a monitoring camera 2 and a monitoring system 1 including the camera 2 and a controller 3 which are interconnected with each other through a communication network. The camera is provided with a distortion lens for forming an image with the distortion being less and height of image is large in the central area of the image while the distortion being large and height of image is small in the peripheral area of the image. With that distortion lens, the camera forms a clear and large image of an object in the central area. The camera is switchable between a stand-by mode for outputting data of image of a wide area, and a close-observation mode for outputting data of the image of the central area extracted from the entire image. In the close-observation mode, the camera may track the movement of an object which intruded into the monitored area.